

the much-vexed question of *Pellorneum tickelli*, we have given our unbiased and independent opinion, founded on our own personal comparison, viz. that "it is impossible" to decide the case from the descriptions, but that the *size* of the specimens seems to favour Mr. Hume's views. After this, it is a little hard that Mr. Hume should complain of his referees not having delivered judgment.

25. *Taczanowski on the Birds of Poland.*

[Liste des Vertébrés de Pologne, par L. Taczanowski. Bull. Soc. Zool. de France, 1877, p. 121.]

M. Taczanowski enumerates 304 species of birds in his list, and gives notes on the times and seasons of their occurrence. In his preliminary remarks is given an account of the previous literature on the subject.

IX.—*Letters, Announcements, &c.*

We have received the following letters, addressed to the Editors of 'The Ibis':—

Heligoland, September 28th, 1878.

SIRS,—It gives me much pleasure to inform you that the occurrence here of *Larus affinis* has very soon been followed by another still more interesting addition to the ornis of Heligoland, in the capture of a fine specimen of a *Phylloscopus* (shot here on the 25th inst. by my eldest son) greatly resembling *P. fuscatus*, but of a coloration tending more to greyish than buffish brown, the dark colour of the upper parts extending all round the fore part of the breast, or craw, as we describe it in German ornithological phraseology.

With the aid of Mr. Seebohm's paper on the *Phylloscopi* (Ibis, 1877, p. 66), I have been enabled to identify the above bird, *P. viridanus* being the only one of his eight *Acanthopneustæ* without the mesial line that it could be referred to, although the bill of my specimen is not to be called "*large*," being, in fact, not larger than that of *P. trochilus*. In all other measurements, however, in the colour of the upper

and underparts, the superciliary streak, distinctness of lower wing-bar, combined with the total absence of the upper one, "pale greenish plumbeous" legs (which I had marked down as olive-grey), as in the relative proportions of the primaries, it fully agrees with the description given by Mr. Seebohm of *P. viridanus*.

Judging from what is said in the same paper as regards *P. plumbeitarsus*, it appears that this species resembles *P. viridanus* very closely indeed; but the "lead-colour" of the legs, together with the "generally distinct" upper wing-bar of the former, induced me to decide in favour of *P. viridanus* as a name for my bird. Perhaps there may exist a sufficient difference in the shape of wing between these closely allied species, although in both of them the second and seventh primaries are of nearly the same length as are the third, fourth, and fifth; still, with this seeming sameness, the distance from the tip of the bastard primary to that of the three longest primaries, and from those again to the longest tertiary, may differ so essentially as, when placing both species side by side, to make their dissimilarity apparent at a glance. Unfortunately I am not in possession of materials to decide this question.

As perhaps some members of the ornithological brotherhood may be rather surprised at the statement that this small island should be visited by two different species on the same day, both belonging to the far east of Asia, I beg to state that, for instance, a *Phylloscopus nitidus* was also shot by my son whilst searching for a *P. superciliosus* seen here the same day, that another time *Turdus varius* was captured the same day with two *P. superciliosus*, and again this latter Willow-Warbler together with an *Emberiza pusilla*, as also with an *E. rustica*. On the 1st of October, 1869, examples of *Turdus varius*, *P. superciliosus*, *E. pusilla*, *Anthus cervinus*, together with three of *Muscicapa parva*, were either seen or shot here, followed the next day by a *Turdus swainsoni*, which latter bird, under the circumstances, decidedly made its journey hither across Asia.

Of more south-eastern species, I have obtained here on the

same day *Charadrius fulvus* and *Emberiza melanocephala*, at another time *Acrocephalus agricola* together with *Ruticilla mesoleuca*, and, again, *Falco rufipes* along with *Alauda brachydactyla*, as also *Sturnus roseus* along with *E. melanocephala*.

Instances of this description I could easily multiply to a very great extent; the above will, however, be sufficient to show that such so-called stray birds do not, as a general rule, consist of silly young individuals roaming about at random, but there is system in their apparently irrational wanderings, though we may not be able to divine the motives—a supposition supported by the fact that, along with the change of direction such birds are proceeding from, there is also a fixed difference of season at which they do appear.

Yours &c.,

H. GÄTKE.

Aldershot, October 24, 1878.

SIRS,—A slight error appears in the biographical memoir of the late Mr. Edward Adams, published along with his list of the birds of Michalaski (*vide* Ibis, 1878, p. 421).

During the years 1848–49 the ‘Investigator,’ forming part of the expedition under Sir James Ross, was commanded by Captain Bird, and not by Captain M’Clure.

Yours &c.,

H. W. FEILDEN.

SIRS.—Allow me a few remarks on several notices of my papers published by you in the last number of ‘The Ibis’ (1878, pp. 479–483).

Lanius antinorii, Salvad. (Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. xii., 25 Maggio 1878), looks like *L. pallidirostris*, Cass., when on the wing, but not otherwise; I think that very likely it is the same bird which has been lately described by Cabanis under the name of *Lanius (Fiscus) dorsalis* (‘Journal für Ornithologie,’ April 1878, p. 205). But which name has the priority? If you look at the dates printed on the papers you would say Cabanis. But I may as well remark that the April number of the

'Journal für Ornithologie' for this year did not reach me till the 7th of September; and I should like to hear what was the *real* date of its appearance. Once before it was noticed in 'The Ibis' (1877, p. 239, note) that the number containing "Ornithological Results of the 'Gazelle' Expedition," although dated July 1876, was not issued to the subscribers until January 1877! I think that such a proceeding is very objectionable.

In the notice of my paper "On Certain Cassowaries," there is a passage not quite exact. You say that I "now doubt whether Cassowary No. 2, from Warbusi, is really identical with No. 1, from Wandammen, *i. e.* whether *C. altijugus* really = *C. salvadorii*, *i. e.* if the localities are rightly assigned."

In my paper I have written nothing of the kind. On the contrary, acknowledging the identity of *C. altijugus* and *C. salvadorii*, I have only expressed my doubts whether *C. salvadorii* is really from Warbusi, a locality whence we know certainly that *C. tricarunculatus* comes. I have added that probably the tickets of the two specimens referred to *C. salvadorii* and to *C. tricarunculatus* have been exchanged, so that the ticket of *C. salvadorii*, on which was written "Warbusi," most likely belonged to *C. tricarunculatus*, and to *C. salvadorii* belonged the one attached to *C. tricarunculatus*, on which was simply written "Nouvelle Guinée, 1876." On this supposition the specimen of *C. tricarunculatus* sold to Count Turati by Laglaize would be from Warbusi, as the type specimen was, and *C. salvadorii*, with the ticket "Nouvelle Guinée, 1876," might possibly be from Wandammen, like the specimen originally named *C. altijugus*.

I wish to mention that in the same paper of mine on Cassowaries (p. 4, or 422 of the volume, line 20), I have wrongly quoted "Ann. Mus. Civ. Gen. vii. p. 717, note, 1877," instead of "Sclater, Ibis, 1877, p. 372, note."

It should be understood that my name *Chalcopsittacus bruijni* has no priority over *C. insignis*, Oust., bestowed one week before mine. Might not this bird possibly be the

long-lost *Psittacus stavorini*, Less., Voy. Coq. Zool. i. p. 355, most likely described from memory?

In the footnote to the notice of my paper on the Birds from Tarawai, there is one thing wrong. *Chenorhamphus cyanopectus*, Oust. (= *Todopsis grayi*, Wall. = *Myiagra glauca*, Schleg.), was not described from Tarawai, but from Amberpon. M. Oustalet admits now the identity asserted by me. Possibly the genus *Chenorhamphus* will have to stand.

I take this opportunity to mention that M. Oustalet's recently described *Pachycephala squalida* (conf. Ibis, 1878, p. 376) is a young bird of *P. griseiceps*, Gray. M. Oustalet has kindly compared, at my request, his bird with two specimens which I had compared with Gray's type in the British Museum.

One of my objects when last year in Paris was to identify *Trerolæma leclancheri*, Bp.; and Mr. Elliot was with me when I found out that it was the same as *Leucotreron gironieri*. I am glad to hear that he is of opinion that I was right.

As to *Hermotimia corinna*, from the Duke-of-York Island, I think that anybody who will look at a series of it in comparison with a series of *H. aspasia* will agree with me that they certainly differ. The male has the throat, not purple, more or less shining steel-blue, like the male of *H. aspasia*, but pure steel-blue, like the male of *H. aspasioides*, from Amboina, a species generally admitted, although it differs from *H. aspasia* less than my *H. corinna*; besides, the female of this differs from those of *H. aspasioides* and *H. aspasia*, which have the underparts greenish, by having the same parts decidedly yellowish, and the throat much lighter. If differences so conspicuous and so constant as these are to be represented by names, I think that *H. corinna* will have to stand.

Yours truly,
T. SALVADORI.

Turin, October 28th, 1878.
Zoological Museum.

SIRS,—We have to chronicle, since we last wrote, the addition of three birds to the ornithology of New Caledonia. This time they are, we think, known species; at least we identify them as such.

When we first came to Noumea we at once detected that among the common Swiftlets that fly about the outskirts of the town there occasionally appears a smaller and a brighter-coloured bird. We identified the former (on the wing) with *Collocalia spodiopygia* of Fiji, which it exactly resembled; but lately, having obtained specimens, we saw at once that they differed from it in being much brighter-coloured, and not so smoky on the underparts and rump-patch. They are also somewhat larger, the wing being half an inch longer. This bird we now believe to be *C. leucopygia*, Wall.

What, then, were the white-bellied ones? They had then disappeared; but having again come to the front, we have lately shot some of them, and find that they accord exactly with Gray's figure and description in the 'Voyage of the Curaçoa' of *C. uropygialis*. Gray says "this bird has hitherto only been obtained in the New Hebrides (Aneiteum)." The distance is not very great, and a mere bagatelle to a bird of such power of wing as a Swift. We find that though they occasionally hawk after small insects in company with the other species, they in general keep more to the edge of the forest, and among the scattered gum-trees. We fancy that they must be migratory, as during the summer months we did not observe them; they are now (May) pretty numerous, but local.

Leopold Layard has started a canoe, there being no recreation here but "drinking-bars," billiards, and gambling; and one evening, returning from a cruise to some islands off Anseвата, he reported that he had found *Charadrius fulvus* breeding on a small sand-patch, the parent bird being followed by a pair of downy chicks, and that he had seen a flock of very minute Terns, which were quite new to him.

Next day he went after them with his gun, and returned with a specimen (the only one then to be found) of *Sternula nereis*, Gould, a female, with the head speckled. This, as far

as we can make out, is the first time this species has been recorded from here.

Our last prize is another visitant from the Australian continent, a magnificent example of what we make out to be a female *Falco melanogenys*, Gould. This powerful Falcon was killed at the Government penal farm, "Yahoué," by the superintendent, who is on the look-out for Hawks and such like for us, the slaying of these being permitted by the colonial authorities. It weighed just 2 lb. Length (in the flesh, of course) 17", wing 12" 6", tail 7" 9", tarse 2" 2", girth round middle of thigh 3" 6". These measurements slightly exceed those given by Mr. Sharpe of a female in his 'Catalogue,' but we feel sure that our bird must be assigned to that species, of which this is the first recorded capture from here.

This part of the country has yielded us two other Hawks, viz. a splendid adult female of *Accipiter haplochrous*, Selater (Ibis, 1859, p. 275, pl. viii), and a young one in the mottled plumage—also two specimens of *Haliastur sphenurus* (Vieill.), a species which apparently does not confine itself to a fish diet, but preys on the farmers' chickens, the remains of which we found in their crops!

Leopold Layard is just leaving for a visit to the New Hebrides, where he will remain about three months, visiting the different islands where there are plantations and cobra (or bêche-de-mer) fishing-stations. His spare time he will devote to ornithology, having taken with him a collecting-gun (20 bore, left barrel on the new choke principle), manufactured expressly for the purpose by a well-known brother of the "Ibis." We hope to report further of this weapon as a "collecting-gun;" meanwhile we cannot help alluding to an exploit of our old favourite, "Long Tom," the shooting of which is wonderfully improved by the use, over the powder, of some very thick, elastic, felt wadding, lately sent us. We are using $\frac{1}{4}$ drm. of powder and $\frac{1}{8}$ oz. of shot, and have fired about forty shots without one miss! Forty birds for 5 oz. of shot and 10 drms. of powder!!

E. L. & L. C. LAYARD.

Noumea, New Caledonia,
July 6th, 1878.

SIRS,—The past month must be marked with a “white stone” in our journal of collecting in New Caledonia! We have added no less than three species to our collection, one of them being, I fancy, a very scarce one. Not so scarce as *Megalurulus mariae*, however, as the solitary specimen of that bird sent home by us some time since (*cf.* Ibis, 1877, p. 360) still remains unique, as far as we are concerned. Probably we have not yet hit upon its chief habitat, which we suppose, from the specimen seen by L. L. while crossing the great central mountain-chain, to be somewhere in the interior.

The acquisition of a horse and carriage has enabled us to extend our collecting peregrinations to a greater distance, and to reach some of the pine forests clothing the ravines of Mount Kouyé. Our first prizes were three (one male and two females) specimens of that very beautiful and peculiar green Dove,

LAMPROTRERON HOLOSERICEA, Temm.,

(♂ ♀, bill very dark green, legs and feet very dark pink, iris crimson; length, ♂, 11" 9", wing 6" 6", tail 4", tarse 1" 2"), which we shot near Mr. Strokarek's house, in the Dombeya road. Small yellow berries were in the throat of one of the specimens secured (June 13, 1878); the other two had in their crops round blue berries, a couple of inches in diameter, swallowed whole. They appear to be stupid birds, not easily alarmed. At one L. L. snapt his gun three times, then extracted his cartridge and inserted another, the bird sitting still on the tree above him all the while. A second he fired at and slightly wounded, with the $\frac{1}{8}$ -of-an-ounce charge of dust-shot in “Long Tom.” It flew about fifty yards into some other trees; and after two or three ineffectual “stalks,” he got within range again and shot it.

We are informed that in the interior these Doves are not uncommon. The natives call them “Anez,” and declare they breed in holes of large trees.

Our next prize is *Cyanorhamphus saisseti*, Verr., of which we were fortunate enough to secure a pair, male and female.

The male is again the largest, being in length 12", the female 10½" (all measurements taken "in the flesh," of course). They were killed by L. L. in dense forest. After procuring the first, its mate kept calling round till it afforded a shot, which secured it. It closely resembles *Platycercus novæ-zealandiæ*, Sparrm., of Hutton's 'Catalogue of the Birds of New Zealand;' but on comparing it with specimens received from that gentleman, it is at once seen to be larger, has a *yellow* green on the underside of the body, a *bluer* tinge on the upperside of the tail-feathers; and these last are *rounded* at the ends, not *pointed*, as in the former.

And now, last and least in point of size, but first in merit, a pair (male and female) of that singular bird the *Clytorhynchus pachycephaloides*, of D. G. Elliot (P. Z. S. 1870, p. 242, pl. xix.). These we found along the banks of a small stream in the forest, the first creeping about some dense lianes, the other in a more open place; a third was seen and wounded, but escaped. L. L. watched this last for some time. It had all the manners of a *Rhipidura*, and was, indeed, in the distance, mistaken for *R. verreauxi*; but a nearer approach dispelled the illusion. It was very restless in its movements, incessantly darting at its insect prey (minute Coleoptera) on the underside of leaves and branches, elevating and expanding its tail, at which times the white tip was conspicuously visible.

Our specimens differ somewhat from the type described by Mr. Elliot: both are larger; we give the dimensions:—

♂. Total length 7" 6", wing 3" 9", tail 3" 9", tarse 10", bill 13".

♀. ,, 7" 3", ,, 3" 5", ,, 3" 8", ,, 10", ,, 13".

Then, again, only *two*, instead of *four*, central tail-feathers are immaculate, the others being all more or less tipped with white, which in the female is tinted with isabella-colour. The colours of the soft parts, taken just after death, were as follows:—♂. Bill pale bluish white (like that of *Artamus*, but paler); this darkened into dark silver-grey, with a white tip, in dying; legs and feet silver-grey, soles yellow, claws white; iris dark drab. ♀. Bill horn-coloured, with the base of lower mandible, tip, and edges pale; gape yellow; the rest

as in the male. The bill, from the peculiar conformation of the lower mandible, shows a decided inclination to "gape," as in *Anastomus*. We think that Mr. Elliot might have selected a more appropriate name for this singular bird. It is not like any *Pachycephala* with which we are acquainted! If he had called it *myiolestoides*, it would have expressed its likeness much better, and been three letters shorter!! It is exactly like a *Myiolestes* in shape and coloration, and, but for the bill, would be taken for one when in the hand*.

E. L. L. & L. L.

Bremen, October 18, 1878.

SIRS,—As a supplement to the note of Mr. H. Gätke (Ibis, 1878, p. 489), on the capture of a specimen of *Larus affinis*, Reinh., on Heligoland, I beg leave to record two more cases of the occurrence of this species in Europe. When in Leiden last June, I took occasion to compare my specimens of Gulls from Siberia with those in the Museum. In the extensive series of *Larus argentatus* at Leiden I found a specimen labelled "*Larus argentatus*, 16 November 1863, Tajo, Lisabon," which belongs undoubtedly to *L. affinis*, although it is a young bird, with blackish bill (yellow at the base and tip). A second specimen, shot by Herr F. A. Verstor, 14 August 1874, at Katwijk, near Leiden, labelled also "*L. argentatus*," belongs also to *L. affinis*. It is likewise a young bird, with black primaries and tail-feathers (the latter barred at their bases with white), but in process of change to full dress. The dark colour of the back is always a distinguishing mark of this species, of the identity of which there cannot be the slightest doubt, as, by the kindness of Professor Reinhardt, I was enabled to compare his type with my Siberian specimens. In reference to the distribution of this species, let me add that a specimen from Kamchatka in the Leiden Museum ("*L. occidentalis*, Schleg. Cat. No. 1, from Brandt,

* Mr. Cockerell, the zoological collector, now here on his way to the Solomon Islands, on being shown this bird by us, exclaimed, "Why I shot that in Fiji!" He was thinking of *Myiolestes vitiensis*.

s. n. *borealis*, Br."), and another from Macao ("*L. occidentalis*, Schleg. Cat. No. 2"), also belong to *L. affinis*, Reinh.

Yours &c.,

OTTO FINSCH.

Cardney, Dunkeld, Perthshire,
July 11th, 1878.

SIRS,—I was extremely interested to see Mr. Dalgleish's letter in the last volume of 'The Ibis' (p. 382) mentioning the recent occurrence of three specimens of the Stockdove, *Columba oenas*, in this and the neighbouring county, as I have been for the last month watching a pair of these birds breeding on a rocky hill, called Craigmore, at the back of this house, and was preparing to send a note to you recording the fact. The nest is placed in a hole in a cleft in the rock, about a yard from the entrance, well concealed by overhanging heather; and I only found it out by noticing the way in which the ground was beaten by the old birds going in and out. There are two young birds in it, that were hatched on the 27th June, and are now (July 11th) nearly fledged. I intend trying to rear one of these, and shall leave the old birds unmolested, in hopes they may return another year. There can be little doubt that the pair recorded by Mr. Dalgleish would have bred if they had been left alone. I think there is every probability that the pair here have already brought out a brood, as my keeper has noticed them about the hill for the last three months.

Yours &c.,

A. B. BROOKE.

Boston, November 16th, 1878.

SIRS,—I notice that you cite Mr. Ridgway's authority for the presence of *Podiceps cristatus* in Franklin Lake (Rep. Geol. Survey 40th Parallel, p. 642) as suggesting that my "verdict may require reconsideration."

All things in ornithology are possible; and negative opinions are ever reversible. Nevertheless the fact still stands, that

no specimen of Podiceps cristatus is known to have been ever taken in North America! Mr. Ridgway, eleven years ago, saw what he then supposed to be this bird; but no specimens were procured, and subsequent explorations have failed to confirm his hypothesis. He saw birds that may have been *P. cornutus*, or *P. occidentalis*, or *P. clarki*, or *P. griseigena*; but, in the universal absence of *P. cristatus*, there is now no reason for believing that they were what he then supposed. Audubon tells us how common was *P. cristatus* on our western rivers; but now-a-days no one finds it there, only *P. griseigena*. Dr. Coues cites *P. cristatus* in his 'Birds of the North-west'; but he now concedes that it is not known to be North-American. And even my very accurate and careful friend Mr. C. Hart Merriam, in his admirable 'Review of the Birds of Connecticut,' published less than a year ago, gives this bird as a resident in "the land of wooden nutmegs," on the authority of such usually reliable gentlemen as W. W. Coe, J. H. Sage, and Dr. Wood, and of some eight (alleged) examples. Upon my calling his attention to the doubt, Mr. Merriam "reconsidered" his opinion, having ascertained that, without exception, they were all examples of immature *P. griseigena*. And this has been my universal experience. In every instance where specimens have been taken they prove to be not *P. cristatus*. When the genuine article is forthcoming, I shall be ready enough to "reconsider my verdict;" but till then I prefer to believe that its presence in any part of America is "not proven."

Yours &c.,

T. M. BREWER.

Habits of Trogon surucura.—The following notes on a Brazilian *Trogon* are extracted from Mr. T. P. Bigg-Wither's interesting work lately published*. Skins kindly submitted to us by Mr. Bigg-Wither have enabled us to identify the species as *Trogon surucura*, Vieillot.

"The habits of the *Suruquá* are peculiar. Their principal

* Pioneering in South Brazil: Three Years of Forest and Prairie Life in the Province of Parana. By Thomas P. Bigg-Wither. Two vols. London (Murray): 1878.

food consists of butterflies and other soft-bodied flying insects ; and the only time when they exhibit any activity is when in pursuit of their prey. At all other times they sit motionless on some bough or branch of a tree, generally about thirty feet above the ground. The report of a gun will not cause them to do more than turn their head ; and I have on more than one occasion shot the one bird, while its mate has remained sitting on the same tree half a dozen yards off, quietly looking on."

"The sound of our axes seemed to have an especial attraction for the *Suruquá*. Frequently while some tree has been trembling on its throne under the powerful blows of the axe, one of these birds has come flying hurriedly up, and settled itself comfortably on one of the branches of the tottering monarch, as though it had been fleeing from some pursuer, and had now reached a haven of safety. I think possibly the vibration of the leaves under the blows of the axe upon the trunk deceives it into imagining that butterflies are fluttering about round the tree ; hence its haste to come and inspect it. Certainly the bird seems silly and stupid enough for any thing."

Dr. Finsch's Expedition.—In company with Capt. Henry Sengstake, who took a prominent part in the German Arctic Expedition of 1868 and 1870, and who has recently returned from the west coast of America, Dr. Otto Finsch, the well-known ornithologist of Bremen, contemplates undertaking a scientific voyage among the islands of the North Pacific. His attention will be directed more particularly to his own branch of science, while his companion will study the geography and hydrography of the places visited. Dr. Finsch is assisted in the matter by the Academy of Sciences at Berlin ; but he hopes to obtain additional aid from other sources, so as to enable him to charter a vessel, and thus be more independent in his movements. Should his hopes be realized, he proposes to visit more especially the Caroline archipelago or New Philippines, the Ladrões or Marianne Islands, and the Bonin or Arzobispo group, about many of the islands of which next to nothing is known. Dr. Finsch thinks, and not

without reason, that much may be done for science in all its branches in this part of the world, and that, looking at the matter from a geographer's stand-point, time will be profitably spent in preparing maps of the islands and in collecting materials for reports on their products, economic capabilities, and physical condition.—*Academy*, 2nd Nov. 1878.

A new form of Certhiidæ.—Prof. Barboza du Bocage has kindly lent me for examination a skin of the very curious new form of Certhiidæ, from Angola, which he has lately characterized as *Hylypsornis salvadorii**. Although the form comes very near *Salpornis* of the Himalayas in general appearance and structure, I think *Hylypsornis* may stand as a good genus, on account of its shorter bill and feebler feet, the middle toe being especially shorter. I cannot compare the wing-structure, the skin being that of a bird in moult. The discovery of this form in Angola (Certhiidæ being hitherto unknown in the Æthiopian Region) is of the greatest interest.—P. L. S.

Additions to the Collection of Birds in the British Museum in 1877.—The following extract from the Annual Parliamentary Report on the British Museum for 1877† is the portion relating to the birds:—

The total number of acquisitions amounts to 1890, of which seventy-three were species entirely new to the collection, and twenty-three typical specimens. The following accessions may be specially mentioned:—

Fifty-four specimens, collected by Captain Feilden during the late Arctic Expedition; presented by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury.

* *Jorn. Acad. Lisboa*, no. xxiii. 1878.

† British Museum. Account of the Income and Expenditure of the British Museum (Special Trust-Funds) for the Financial Year ended the 31st day of March 1878, and Return of the number of Persons admitted to visit the Museum, together with a Statement of the Progress made in the Arrangement of the Collections and an Account of Objects added to them in the year 1877.

The nest and egg of the Snow-Bunting, and a pair of Knots, with the nestlings, obtained by Captain Feilden in lat. $82^{\circ} 33'$, and presented by the collector.

Forty-four specimens from Turkey, collected by Mr. W. Pearce, of Constantinople; presented by R. B. Sharpe, Esq.

The types of *Podoces biddulphi* and of *Suya obscura*; purchased.

Fifty-three specimens from China; presented by the Shanghai Museum.

Twenty-five birds from the Himalayas and North-western India; collected by Captain T. Biddulph.

The type of *Oreocincla pectoralis* and specimens of *Centropus chlororhynchus* and *Phodilus assimilis* (species new to the collection); presented by Captain Vincent Legge, R.A.

A series of 144 specimens selected from the collection formed by Governor Ussher in Labuan and North-west Borneo, containing the types of *Lobiophasis castaneicaudatus*, *Pitta ussheri*, and *Cypselus labuanensis*; purchased.

Typical examples of *Corvus annectens* and *Polyplectron schleiermacheri*; received in exchange from the Darmstadt Museum.

Two of the typical specimens of *Rectes jobiensis*; purchased.

Selected series from collections made in New Guinea by Mr. O. C. Stone and the late Dr. James, containing seven new species.

A typical specimen of *Chaetorhynchus papuensis*; presented by the Dresden Museum.

Three Cassowaries, including the types of *Casuarius picticollis* and *Casuarius sclateri*; purchased of the Zoological Society.

Thirty specimens of Corvidæ from Australia; presented by the Trustees of the Australian Museum, Sydney.

Fifty-two specimens from various islands of the South Seas; purchased of the Godeffroy Museum.

The fifth portion of the collection of African birds formed by, and formerly in the possession of, Mr. R. B. Sharpe; it consists of 600 specimens, and contains six types and many species previously not represented in the British Museum.

One hundred and fifty-nine specimens from King William's Town; presented by Lieutenant H. Trevelyan.

Thirty-three specimens from the same locality; presented by Lieutenant Anstey.

Twenty Warblers and Chats from the Transvaal; presented by Dr. Henry Exton, of Bloemfontein.

Sixty-nine specimens from Abeokuta, including the type of *Amadina sharpii*; presented by F. Nicholson, Esq.

The Swinhoe Collection.—We are happy to be able to inform our readers that Mr. Seebohm has bought the remainder of the late Mr. Swinhoe's collection. Hitherto the skins have been kept in boxes, a most destructive and reprehensible method for small birds, resulting in the gradual abrasion of their plumage and in the breaking of their necks. They will now be placed in shallow drawers, on the plan adopted by all scientific ornithologists who take a pride in the preservation of their treasures. This still valuable collection will be placed in Tenterden Street, and will be available, as it has hitherto been, to all students interested in Chinese ornithology. Many of Swinhoe's types are unfortunately missing; some have been sold, and others lent and not returned. Some of the most interesting series of birds have also entirely disappeared from the same causes. In the interests of science it is very desirable that this unique collection should be made as complete as possible; and we venture to appeal to the ornithological patriotism of those who may be able to assist in effecting this object, and to ask those who have in their possession borrowed skins to return them to Mr. Seebohm. We have also this gentleman's authority for stating that from those who have purchased from the late Mr. Swinhoe any skins belonging to any of the missing series he is prepared to repurchase them at a handsome profit if they will replace them in the collection, or to give ample exchange either in skins or eggs, which his Siberian and other collections enable him so well to do.

Substantives as Specific Names.—It appears not to be understood by some naturalists that specific names *may be* substantives. Linnæus used many such, *e. g.* *Turdus merula*, *Emberiza cirrus*, and *Fringilla spinus*, in each of which cases, will be observed, the specific name is of a different gender from the generic, the two terms being placed in apposition. In the face of this, certain naturalists do not hesitate to violate the plainest rules of Latinity, in order to bring their specific and generic names to the same termination. Not to speak of Mr. Sharpe's *Cerchneis tinnuncula* (!), Mr. Dresser has lately attempted to turn *agricola* into an adjectival form*, not considering that it is a masculine noun, although ending in *a*. Surely no one who has been to school can forget

"O fortunati nimium sua si bona nôrint
Agricolæ!"

In the new number of 'Stray Feathers,' Mr. Hume, in a similar frame of mind, proposes to convert "*eremita*"—another masculine noun—into an adjective, and tries to persuade us to call our old friend *Fregilus graculus*, *Graculus eremitus*†.

New British Bird.—An addition has just been made to the British list by a record of the occurrence of the Black-throated Wheatear of Southern Europe (*Saxicola stapazina*, Linn., nec Dresser) in Lancashire. The occurrence of this bird was first stated in an article in 'Science Gossip,' of October 1st, 1878. The specimen in question has since been exhibited at the Meetings of the Zoological Society in November and December last, and unquestionable evidence given as to the authenticity of the occurrence.

The Breeding-places of the Black Stork.—I have been trying, for some time unsuccessfully, to get some Black Storks (*Ciconia nigra*) for the Zoological Society's collection. On turning to Mr. Dresser's 'Birds of Europe' for information

* *Acrocephalus agricolus*, Dresser, B. of Eur. pt. 53.

† 'Stray Feathers,' vii. p. 149.

as to the nearest breeding-places from which I might obtain young birds, and which I believe to be somewhere in Denmark, I found only the somewhat vague information that it is "not uncommon" there, and "breeds annually at Fredrikslund," and in another passage that it "breeds only seldom, and not regularly, on the islands (?), as, for instance, on Seeland." On reference to Prof. Reinhardt, of Copenhagen, I was, however, favoured with the following information, which, I think, may be acceptable to some of the members of the B. O. U. :—

"The Black Stork is not uncommon in Denmark, and breeds in several of the forests in Jutland, but usually only a few pairs, or even a single pair, in each forest.

"There are breeding-places :—

- "1. To the north of 'Limfjorden,' in
Baggesvogn-skov, in the neighbourhood of the small town of Hjörning (the most northern breeding-place in Denmark) ;
Dronninglund-storskov, on the estate Dronninglund ;
Stagsted-skov.
- "2. On the island 'Oland,' in Limfjorden, in
Oksholm-skov, belonging to the estate of that name.
- "3. To the south of Limfjorden, in
Hald-skov and *Aunsbjerg-skov*, not far from Viborg ;
Houlbjerg-skov, on the estates of Count Friis ;
Fusingö-skove, on the estates of Count Scheel-Plessen ;
Mylenberg-skov, some miles from the small town of Hobro ;
Palsgaard-skove, several miles distant from Veile ;
Ronvold-skove, belonging to the estate of Count Rantzau, in the same neighbourhood ;
Store Grundel-skov, also close by Veile ;
Silkeberg-skove, not far from Skandeborg.

"There are, I believe, still more breeding-places in Jutland ; but I suppose that those already mentioned will suffice.

"There is even at least one breeding-place in Seeland, viz. *Mag-leskor*, on the estate Ivenstrup, at the railway station

Borup, about 20 English miles to the south of Copenhagen. In several of these breeding-places the nests are pretty often robbed of their eggs by collectors.

“The Black Stork arrives commonly early in April. Chicks have been found just hatched, together with two eggs, in a nest, as early as the 2nd of May; but I believe this to have been an exceptional case: some ten or twelve days later may be considered the regular time.

I will ask now, Has any member of the B. O. U. ever visited a nesting-place of the Black Stork in any part of Denmark?

P. L. S.

Geary's '*Asiatic Turkey*.'—Mr. Geary has lately given us a most instructive and interesting account of his ride through Asiatic Turkey from Bagdad to Alexandretta*. But when he comes to ornithological topics Mr. Geary ceases to be accurate; we trust this is not the case in his remarks on more general subjects. “Wild Turkeys,” we are gravely informed, “abound in the region between the Tigris and the Persian hills. They are often hunted with Hawks.” Mr. Geary thereupon proceeds to argue that “the notion that Turkeys are of purely American origin must be given up!” We would ask, Did Mr. Geary see the “wild Turkeys” on the Tigris? and is he sure they were not Bustards of some species? Is it possible, however, that the Editor of the ‘Times of India’ does not know the difference between a Turkey and a Bustard? Again, at Kuffree, on his way to Mosul, Mr. Geary “was awoke [*lege* awakened] by the conjugal discussions in progress between two *Cranes*, which had a colossal nest perched on an angle of the surrounding wall.” The succeeding paragraphs show beyond all doubt that the bird was no other than a Common Stork, which even a newspaper editor ought not to call a Crane. After this we must recur to the old proverb “Ne sutor ultra crepidam!”

* Through Asiatic Turkey: Narrative of a Journey from Bombay to the Bosphorus. By Grattan Geary, Editor of ‘The Times of India.’ London, 1878: Murray.

New Works in Preparation.—The fourth volume of the British-Museum Catalogue of Birds by Mr. Sharpe is now far advanced, and will contain the Campephagidæ, Muscipidæ, and allied families. Mr. Seebohm, we believe, has undertaken the catalogue of the Sylviidæ and some allied groups; and other specialists are named as likely to assist in the preparation of future volumes; so that, we trust, the somewhat melancholy anticipation which we have previously indulged in as to the epoch of the completion of this great work may be disappointed.

The Stricklandian Curator at Cambridge is devoting himself to a catalogue of the collection under his charge; whilst his co-editor, as will be seen by the announcement inserted next to our cover, has projected a monograph on the Jacamars and Puff-birds, to occupy his spare time.

Obituary of Mr. H. Durnford.—Mr. Henry Durnford, whose unexpected death at Salta, in Bolivia, was announced in the last number of 'The Ibis,' was born and educated at Eton, where his father was for many years a master. His Eton career cannot be said to have been particularly brilliant, though he always managed to hold his own creditably in the school, and laid up a considerable store of general knowledge. The love of animals, which from the days of his earliest childhood was his ruling passion, seemed to increase with years, and his great object as a boy was to surround himself with every sort of living creature he could get hold of.

At the age of 18 he entered a mercantile house in Liverpool. Here he remained for five years. Notwithstanding the nature of his employment, he still managed to find time for his favourite pursuit; and the pages of his diary, portions of which appeared from time to time in the 'Zoologist' (1872, 1873), testify to the ardour with which he devoted himself to natural history.

Ornithology was Henry Durnford's special hobby; and whilst at Liverpool he contrived, under considerable difficulties, to make himself well acquainted with most of our

British birds. Besides thoroughly exploring the neighbourhood of Liverpool in company with a younger brother whose tastes were exactly similar to his own, he at various times made expeditions to all parts of the coast. North Wales, Anglesea, Walney Island, Suffolk, Hampshire, and Hayling Island were all, at one time or another, the scene of an excursion; and on one occasion (the spring of 1874) he extended his travels as far as the North Frisian Islands and the coast of Schleswig ('Ibis,' October 1874, and 'Field,' March 1878).

In 1875, being then 22, he succeeded in obtaining an appointment in a house of business at Buenos Ayres, for which place he set out on February 23rd. Though compelled by force of circumstances to labour at what was, to him, an uncongenial occupation, he did not by any means lose his love of birds; and the numerous letters received at this period point to the vigour with which he pursued his scientific studies in his adopted country. After remaining two and a half years with the same firm, the closing of their Buenos-Ayres branch afforded him an opportunity, of which he gladly availed himself, for severing for ever his connexion with the desk. He boldly determined to devote himself henceforth to natural history, not merely as a pleasant way of occupying his spare time, but as his sole occupation, by which he was determined to gain his livelihood. With the example before him of many who have succeeded in the same line, and undeterred by the still greater number of those who have failed, he set earnestly to work, and in such a way that, had his life been spared, there can be little doubt that he would ultimately have ranked high in the list of naturalists and explorers.

After an expedition, occupying nearly eight months, to the Welsh colony of Chupat, during which he explored a portion of Patagonia hitherto unknown to European travellers (Ibis, October 1878), he set off, accompanied by a muleteer and four mules, on a more extensive expedition to Tucuman, Bolivia, and the Upper Paraguay. The first portion of his journey was most successfully accomplished; and in a letter dated "Rio Pasage, 16th June, 1878," he speaks with the

utmost enthusiasm of the beauties of the tropical region on which he was entering, the scenery of which seemed greatly to exceed his expectations. One month later a telegram was received at Buenos Ayres from a gentleman living near to Salta, to whom Henry Durnford had obtained an introduction, stating briefly that the young naturalist committed to his care had breathed his last on an estancia at Campo Santo, at 10 o'clock on the morning of July 13th. A subsequent letter explained that his death had resulted from a sudden attack of heart-disease, the seeds of which had doubtless been sown during a fever which had nearly proved fatal to him at Chupat a few months before.

The first paper communicated to this Journal by Henry Durnford was in 1874, entitled "Ornithological Notes on the North-Frisian Islands and adjacent Coast" (*Ibis*, 1874, pp. 391-406). In 1876 (pp. 157-166) he commenced his "Ornithological Notes from the Neighbourhood of Buenos Ayres." These were continued in 1877 (pp. 166-203). The same year (pp. 27-46) his "Notes on some Birds observed in the Chupat Valley, Patagonia, and in the neighbouring District" appeared; and, following the same subject, he sent us in 1878 (pp. 389-406) his "Notes on the Birds of Central Patagonia." As these last were passing through the press the tidings of their author's death reached us. All these papers show that Henry Durnford was a keen observer of birds in their wild state; and his collections, which were submitted to us for examination, enabled us to judge of the rapidity and accuracy with which he had accomplished the by no means easy task of mastering the names of the species he met with.

Henry Durnford was elected a Member of the British Ornithologists' Union in 1876.

Death of Dr. Stölker.—From the 'Mittheilungen des ornithologischen Vereines in Wien' for August last, we learn of the death, at the early age of 39, of Dr. Carl Stölker, the distinguished Swiss ornithologist, of St. Fiden, near St. Gall, in Switzerland. Dr. Stölker was the author of several papers in the 'Journal für Ornithologie,' the 'Bulletin' of the Swiss

Ornithological Society, and other periodicals, and appears to have been a most energetic collector of birds and eggs. His collection has been bequeathed to the Natural-History Society of St. Gall.

Death of Mr. G. D. Rowley.—With much regret also we announce the death of Mr. George Dawson Rowley, a Member of this Union since 1864, and a well-known and familiar friend to many of us. Mr. Rowley was the eldest son of the late Mr. George William Rowley, of Priory Hill, in Huntingdon, who, singularly enough, expired on the same day as his son, after a long illness. Mr. Rowley was born in 1822, and was educated at Eton and Cambridge, where he took the degree of B.A. in 1846. Both at school and at the University he was a companion of the late John Wolley, whose early passion for ornithology he shared. Many short contributions from Mr. Rowley's pen have appeared in 'The Field,' 'The Zoologist,' 'The Proceedings of the Zoological Society,' and in this Journal, generally relating either to the natural history of the neighbourhood of Brighton, where he chiefly resided, or to the rarities in birds and eggs acquired for his own collection. But the work by which he will be chiefly known will be his 'Ornithological Miscellany'*, the third and concluding volume of which was brought to a completion just as his fatal illness commenced. Mr. Rowley died at his residence, Chichester House, East Cliff, Brighton, on the 21st of November last.

* See notices of this work, 'Ibis,' 1875, p. 509; 1877, pp. 122, 243, 378, 481; 1878, pp. 193, 471.